**Coal mine accidents**

40. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY; Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that look palce in coal mines, during the last three years;

(b) how many among them, were major accidents, details of each major accident and also the number of deaths in each accident;

(c) whether any enquiry was ordered into each of these accidents, if so, what were the findings in each case;

(d) whether any responsibility was fixed for each of these accidents, if so, details thereof and also action taken; and

(e) what steps are being taken to prevent mine disaster in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The number of accidents which took place in the coal mines in India are as given below:

| | 1995 | 1994 | 1993 | 1992 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fatal accidents | (Jan-Oct.) 126 | 156 | 156 | 165 | 603 |
| Serious accidents | 632 | 717 (Source: DGMS) | 854 | 810 | 3013 |

(b) Accidents involving four or more fatalities are termed as high fatality accidents. There have been seven such accidents during 1993—95 as per details given below:

| Date | Colliery | Company | No. of fatalities | Cause |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19.11.93 | Tipong | North Eastern Coalfields | 9 | Ignition of gases |
| 18.1.94 | Mahavir Khani No. 1. | Singareni Collieries Col. Ltd. | 4 | Fall of roof |
| 25.1.94 | New kenda | Eastern Coalfields Limited | 55 | Ignition/fire |
| 5.3.94 | Kotma (West) | South Eastern Coalfields Limited | 6 | Fall of Roof |
| 11.12.94 | Bararee | Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. | 4 | Winding in shaft |
| 26.9.95 | Gaslitand | Bharat Coking Coal Limited | 64 | Inrush of surface water |
| 26.9.95 | Katra-Choitudih | Bharat Coking Coal Limited | 4 | Inrush of surface water |

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Inquiries were held in each of these accidents by the Directorate General of Mines Safety and Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of the concerned coal company. Findings of the ISO enquiry and action taken by Coal India Limited as follows:

| Company | Date of accident | Name of mine | Responsibility fixed on | Action taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NEC | 19.11.93 | Tipping | 1. Manager | Stoppage of one increment |
| | | | 2. Safey Officer | Stoppage of one increment |
| | | | 3. Ventilation officer | Stoppage of one increment |
| | | | 4. Colliery Engineer | Stoppage of one increment |
| | | | 5. Electrical Supervisor | Stoppage of one increment |
| | | | 6. Mining Sirdar | Demoted to lower grade. |
| ECL | 25.1.94 | New Kenda | A Court of Inquiry to look into the causes and circusmtances attending the accident has been constituted by the Government. | |
| SECL | 5.3.94 | Kotma (West) | 1. Agent | Charge sheeted |
| | | | 2. Manager | Charge sheeted |
| | | | 3. Under Manager | Charge sheeted |
| | | | 4. Sr. Over Man | Cautioned |
| | | | 5. Safey Officer | Cautioned |
| BCCL | 11.12.94 | Bararee | None | Does not arise |
| BCCL | 26.9.95 | Gaslitand & other Mines | | Court of Inquiry instituted |

In some cases Directorate General of Mines safey has also launched prosecution.

(a) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Expert Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, safety Conferences, etc. are followed by the mine management to prevent accidents. In order to ensure better observance of these steps Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits; workers participation in safety manangement, tripartite-bipartite reviews at various levels, training and re-training of work persons, observance of safety week /safety compaigns and National Safety awards.